GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3238
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2005
ANTI-AIDS DRUGS AT CONSESSIONAL RATE
Mohite Shri Subodh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make it mandatory for the Indian Drug Manufacturers to provide Anti-AIDS drugs to local people at concessional rate ;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the measures taken in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government for more involvement of private sector in HIV/AIDS prevention measures?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a), (b) and (c): No, sir. The government has so far not proposed to make it mandatory for the Indian drug manufacturers to provide Anti AIDS drugs to local people at concessional rates.

However, the Government has reduced the cost of generic ARV drugs by exempting the payment of central excise duty in the budget of 2002-03, on ten commonly used ARV drugs, such as, Stavudine, Zidovudine, Lamivudine, Nevirapine, Efavirenz, Didanosine, Indinavir, Ritonavir, Nelfinavir and Saquinavir.

(d) The National AIDS Control Programme is implementing preventive measures among the High Risk Groups through NGOs. Presently 933 such Targeted Intervention Projects are operational across the country among the High Risk Groups, such as the Female Sex Workers, Injecting Drug Users, migrant workers, truckers and Men having Sex with Men. NGOs are also involved in running Community Care Centres, Drop in Centres for HIV positive individuals and School AIDS Education Programmes. Under the Global Fund for Prevention of AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GFATM) project, they are involved in conducting counseling, outreach services and providing referral linkages with institutions providing Anti Retroviral Therapy.